

REMARKS

Upon entry of the instant amendment, claims 14-23 are pending in the present application. In the instant amendment, claims 2-3, 5 and 8-13 have been cancelled. Claim 14 has been amended. New claims 15-23 have been added.

The instant amendment made herein to the claims does not incorporate new matter into the application as originally filed. For example, claim 14 has been amended based on Example 1 as disclosed at paragraph [0067] bridging pages 11-12 of the substitute specification filed on December 19, 2005 (hereinafter, referred as "the specification") to further clarify features of the present invention. New claims 15-23, which depend from claim 14, correspond to claims 2-3, 5 and 8-13, respectively.

Accordingly, proper consideration of each of the pending claims is respectfully requested at present, as is entry of the present amendment.

Allowable Subject Matter and Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103

At page 5-9, claims 2, 3, 10 and 12 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Taguchi U.S. '051 (U.S. 6,485,051) in view of Taylor US '922 (U.S. 2003/0145922A1), Dahl U.S. '055 (U.S. 6,139,055), Mendenhall U.S. '102 (U.S. 6,143,102) and Yamato U.S. '647 (U.S. 6,517,647). Further, claims 5, 8, 9 and 11 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Taguchi U.S. '051, Taylor U.S. '922, Dahl U.S. '055, Mendenhall U.S. '102, Matsuda U.S. '767 (U.S. Patent 5,780,767) and Yamato U.S. '647.

On the other hand, at page 9 of the Office Action, the Examiner has indicated that claim 14 would be allowable if the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 112, 2nd paragraph is overcome.

In the present amendment, claims 2-3, 5 and 8-13 have been cancelled, and new claims 15-23, which correspond to claims 2-3, 5 and 8-13, respectively, and depend from allowable claim 14, have been added. Thus, the prior art rejections have been overcome. Thus, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner withdraw the prior art rejections.

Incidentally, the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph is also overcome as explained below.

35 U.S.C. § 112, 2nd Paragraph Rejection

At pages 2-5 of the outstanding Office Action, claims 3, 5 and 8-14 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

Claim 14

In order to further clarify the present invention, claim 14 has been amended to read "... *the molded articles of the gas generating agent in the combustion chamber include guanidine nitrate, basic copper nitrate, carboxymethyl cellulose sodium salt ...*" (emphases added). It is noted that the amendment to claim 14 finds support in Example 1, as disclosed at paragraph [0067] bridging pages 11-12 of the specification.

Therefore, upon entry to the present amendment of the claims, the rejection has been overcome. Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner withdraw the rejection.

Claims 3, 5 and 8-13

Claims 3, 5 and 8-13 have been canceled, and new claims 15-23, which correspond to claims 2-3, 5 and 8-13, respectively, have been added. The issues which the Examiner raises at page 2-5 of the Office Action have been resolved in new claims 15-23.

For the Examiner's convenience, Table I to compare previous claims 3, 5 and 8-13 with new claims 16-23 is attached hereto (see Attachment). It is noted that new claims 16, 17, 18, 19, 21 and 23 also find support in Example 1 as disclosed at paragraph [0067] bridging pages 11-12 of the specification, and new claims 10 and 12 also find support at paragraphs [0063] and [0066] at page 11 of the specification, respectively.

Therefore, upon entry to the present amendment of the claims, the rejection has been overcome. Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner withdraw the rejection.

CONCLUSION

Accordingly, in view of the above amendments and remarks, reconsideration of the rejections, and allowance of the pending claims are earnestly solicited.

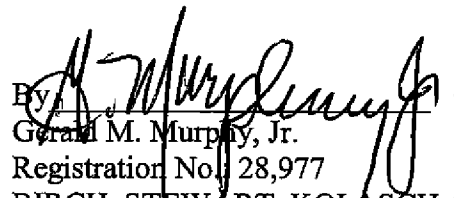
Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Toyohiko Konno (Reg. No. L0053) at the telephone number of the undersigned below, to conduct an interview in an effort to expedite prosecution in connection with the present application.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37.C.F.R. §§ 1.16 or 1.14; particularly, extension of time fees.

Dated:

JUL 11 2008

Respectfully submitted,


By: Gerald M. Murphy, Jr.
Registration No. 28,977
BIRCH, STEWART, KOLASCH & BIRCH, LLP
8110 Gatehouse Road
Suite 100 East
P.O. Box 747
Falls Church, Virginia 22040-0747
(703) 205-8000
Attorney for Applicant

Attachment: Table I

Table I

Previous Claims 3, 5 and 8-13	New Claims 16-23 (emphases added)
3. The gas generator for an air bag according to claim 2, wherein the transfer charge is a mixture of boron and niter.	16. The gas generator for an air bag according to claim 14, wherein the <u>first</u> transfer charge is a mixture of boron and niter.
5. The gas generator for an air bag according to claim 2, wherein the molded articles of a gas generating agent include nitroguanidine, strontium nitrate, and carboxymethyl cellulose sodium salt.	17. The gas generator for an air bag according to claim 14, wherein the molded articles of <u>the</u> gas generating agent <u>of the first transfer charge</u> include nitroguanidine, strontium nitrate, and carboxymethyl cellulose sodium salt.
8. The gas generator for an air bag according to claim 2, wherein the molded articles of a gas generating agent include about 34.4 mass % of nitroguanidine, about 55.6 mass % of strontium nitrate, and about 10.0 mass % of carboxymethyl cellulose sodium salt.	18. The gas generator for an air bag according to claim 14, wherein the molded articles of <u>the</u> gas generating agent <u>of the first transfer charge</u> include about 34.4 mass % of nitroguanidine, about 55.6 mass % of strontium nitrate, and about 10.0 mass % of carboxymethyl cellulose sodium salt.
9. The gas generator for an air bag according to claim 2, wherein the molded articles of a gas generating agent of the first transfer charge include nitroguanidine, and strontium nitrate.	19. The gas generator for an air bag according to claim 14, wherein the molded articles of <u>the</u> gas generating agent <u>of the first transfer charge</u> include nitroguanidine, and strontium nitrate.
10. The gas generator for an air bag according to claim 2, wherein the molded articles of a gas generating agent generate a gas of at least 1.2 moles/100g.	20. The gas generator for an air bag according to claim 14, wherein the molded articles of <u>the</u> gas generating agent <u>of the first transfer charge or the second transfer charge</u> generate a gas of at least 1.2 moles/100g.
11. The gas generator for an air bag according to claim 2, wherein the molded articles of a gas generating agent include carboxymethyl cellulose sodium salt.	21. The gas generator for an air bag according to claim 14, wherein the molded articles of <u>the</u> gas generating agent <u>of the first transfer charge or the second transfer charge</u> include carboxymethyl cellulose sodium salt.
12. The gas generator for an air bag according to claim 2, wherein the gas generating agent has the combustion temperature of about 1200 to 1700°C.	22. The gas generator for an air bag according to claim 14, wherein the gas generating agent <u>in the combustion chamber</u> has the combustion temperature of about 1200 to 1700°C.
13. The gas generator for an bag according to claim 5, wherein the molded articles of a gas generating agent has a combustion temperature of about 2200°C.	23. The gas generator for an bag according to claim 17, wherein the molded articles of <u>the</u> gas generating agent <u>of the first transfer charge</u> has a combustion temperature of about 2200°C.